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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /106 W
---------- 047817
R 241713Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7027
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12175

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON BURDEN SHARING

1. FONOFF AND MOD OFFICIALS TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT THEY ARE SERIOUSLY STUDYING HOW THE FRG CAN GIVE ADDED PUSH TO OUR BURDEN SHARING INITIATIVE IN NATO. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THEY ARE EXPLORING PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER EDIP, SMALLER THAN THAT OF 1970 BUT LARGE ENOUGH TO HAVE AN IMPACT IN THE US CONGRESS; A RE-APPORTIONING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS; AND CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE US COSTS OF STATIONING TROOPS IN EUROPE AND IN THE US.
THEY BELIEVE THERE IS A FAIRLY GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING THE AGREEMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO REDUCING THE US INFRASTRUCTURE SHARE; IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ANOTHER, BUT RELATIVELY MODES EDIP COULD BE LAUNCHED. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, PESSIMISTIC THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL AGREE TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF MAINTAINING US TROOPS IN EUROPE. OUR SOURCES SAID THAT SUCH ITEMS AS PAYMENT OF LOCAL WAGES, THE ASSUMP-
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TION OF RECURRING COSTS FOR PROPERTY, SUPPLY DEPOTS OR COMMUNI-

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CATIONS FACILITIES HAVE ATTRACTED LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THE FRG IS CONSEQUENTLY NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PUSHING THESE CONCEPTS, AT LEAST NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. FONOFF AND MOD OFFICIALS ALSO TOLD US THAT THE LITTLE HOPE WHICH SOME HAD FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A BURDEN SHARING EFFORT HAS NOW VANISHED. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE FRENCH WILL PARTICIPATE IN ANY PROGRAM ADOPTED BY OTHER NATO MEMBERS.
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